



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Trinidad and Tobago

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Export Certificate Report

2005

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**Report Highlights:**

This report focuses on Trinidad and Tobago's foreign import requirements for export certificate requirements.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Miami [C11]  
[TD]

This report was prepared by the Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO) of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Miami, Florida for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

## SECTION I. EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Products	Title of Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
All Foods	Certificate of Free Sale	Food Safety	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division
Animal Products/Fish Products	Health Certificate/Sanitary Certificate	Food Safety/Food Quality  Animal Health Protection	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division  Ministry of Food Production & Marine Resources: Veterinary Service

Meat Products/Poultry  (Including pet foods)	Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificate (Certificate of Wholesomeness)  (Additional statements must be made for canned and packaged meat products)	Food Safety/Food Quality  Animal Health Protection	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division  Ministry of Food Production & Marine Resources: Veterinary Service
Canned and Packaged Meats	Cooking/Processing Certificate	Food Safety	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division
Unprocessed Plant Products  (Fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, rice, flour, peas, beans, plants, and lumber)	Phytosanitary Certificate	Food Safety  Plant Protection	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division  Ministry of Food Production & Marine Resources: Plant Quarantine Service
All Foods	Certificate of Analysis	Food Safety/ Food Quality/Heavy Metals/Inorganic, Organic Standards	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division
Fish	Mercury/Heavy Metals Certificate (Certificate of Analysis)	Food Safety	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division
Peanuts/Corn	Aflatoxin Certificate	Food Safety	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division
Halal/Kosher Meat Products	Halal/Kosher Certificate	Religious Beliefs	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs Division
Other Products:	Other Certificates: Organically Grown Foods, Genetically	Food Safety	Ministry of Health: Chemistry/ Food and Drugs

	Modified Foods, Irradiated Foods		Division
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## SECTION II. PURPOSE OF SPECIFIC EXPORT CERTIFICATES AND GOVERNMENT LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Certificate of Free Sale:** The Ministry of Health, for the purpose of food safety, requires this certificate for all food products exported to Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago government requests that this certificate be issued by a Federal Health Authority attesting that the particular products exported to Trinidad and Tobago are produced and marketed in the United States in general conformity with U.S. requirements. Trinidad and Tobago does not accept a Supplier's or Manufacturer's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. The Certificate of Free Sale is valid for one year and can be applied to multiple shipments of the same product. Exporters are required to update this certificate with the Trinidad and Tobago Chemistry/Food and Drug Division on an annual basis.

While the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)/Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) often issues Certificates of Free Sale, it is important to note that the 1997 FDA Export Reform and Enhancement Act does not require FDA to issue export certificates for food products. However, since many foreign governments require Certificates of Free Sale, FDA intends to continue to provide this certification service as resources permit.

**Health Certificate/Sanitary Certificate:** The Ministry of Health requires this certificate for food safety, food quality, and food processing conditions. Additionally, the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources/Veterinary Service requires this certificate for animal health protection purposes. The Trinidad and Tobago Government requests that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency attesting that the animal/marine products destined for food consumption are free from disease and conform to negotiated standards concerning animal/marine health. The Trinidad and Tobago Government does not accept U.S. State issued Health Certificates. The Health Certificate is valid for the length of time indicated on the certificate, otherwise valid for the indicated shipment, and it must accompany the products at time of entry.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the principal federal agency responsible for issuing health certificates for animal products. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the primary federal agency responsible for issuing health certificates for harvested/produced seafood products.

**Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificate (Certificate of Wholesomeness):** The Ministry of Health requires that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency for food quality purposes. Trinidad and Tobago does not accept U.S. State issued Meat/Poultry Inspection Certificates. Customs Officials will accept the Certificate of Meat/Poultry for the indicated shipment only, and an original certificate must accompany the products at time of entry.

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issues Certificates of Wholesomeness guaranteeing that the meat/poultry products have been inspected by an FSIS Veterinarian, both antemortem and postmortem, and are wholesome and fit for consumption.

**Cooking and Processing Certificate:** The Ministry of Health, for the purpose of food safety, requires this certificate for all canned and packaged meat products exported to Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago Government requests that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency attesting that the canned meat/poultry products were manufactured in accordance with USDA meat/poultry processing regulations. Trinidad and Tobago does not accept a Manufacturer/Supplier's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. The certificate should specify the temperature/minutes of the sterilizing process and the

sterilizing value. The certificate is only valid for the indicated shipment, and the original certificate must accompany the products at time of entry.

**Phytosanitary Certificate:** This certificate is required by the Ministry of Health for the purpose of food safety, as well by the Ministry of Food Production & Marine Resources/Plant Quarantine Unit for domestic plant protection purposes. The Trinidad and Tobago Government requires that this certificate be issued by a U.S. Federal Agency attesting that the shipment of plant products has been inspected and is free of harmful pests and plant diseases, and complies with Trinidad and Tobago's phytosanitary regulations. The Trinidad and Tobago Government will not accept a U.S. State issued Phytosanitary Certificate or a Manufacturer/Supplier's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. Customs Officials will accept the certificate for the indicated shipment only, and the original certificate must accompany the plant products at time of entry. Furthermore, the Phytosanitary Certificate must declare from which U.S. State the plant products originated.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the principal federal agency responsible for conducting inspections and issuing Phytosanitary Certificates.

**Certificate of Analysis:** The Ministry of Health requires this certificate for the purposes of food safety, food quality, heavy metals, and inorganic/organic standards. The Trinidad and Tobago Government requests that a U.S. Federal or Provincial Agency issue this certificate for all U.S. food products entering the country. The Trinidad and Tobago Government does not accept a Manufacturer/Supplier's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. This certificate should give a complete chemical analysis and microbiological analysis of the product. This certificate should also identify the preservatives, food additives, and color additives of the product. The certificate is valid for the indicated shipment only, and the original certificate must accompany the products at time of entry.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) issues Certificates of Analysis (for nuts and a few other exported products only) on a user-fee basis.

**Aflatoxin Certificate:** The Ministry of Health, for food safety reasons, requires that this certificate. A U.S. Federal or Provincial Agency should issue this certificate attesting that an accredited laboratory has tested the peanuts/corn products and the products do not exceed proscribed aflatoxin regulations. Trinidad and Tobago does not accept a Manufacturer/Supplier's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. Customs Officials will accept the Aflatoxin Certificate for the indicated shipment only, and an original certificate must accompany the peanut/corn products at time of entry.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), or other USDA accredited labs, issue Aflatoxin Certificates on a user-fee basis.

**Mercury/Heavy Metals Certificate:** The Ministry of Health, for food safety reasons, requires this official certificate for all U.S. fish products exported to Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago Government requests that a U.S. Federal or Provincial Agency issue this certificate attesting that the fish product meets or exceeds all purity standards specified by the Trinidad and Tobago government. Trinidad and Tobago does not accept a Manufacturer/Supplier's Export Declaration as proof of compliance. The certificate is valid for the indicated shipment only, and the original certificate must accompany the fish products at time of entry.

**Halal/Kosher Certificate:** The Ministry of Health requires this certificate for religious belief purposes. This certificate is issued within the private sector, and ensures that the meat product was slaughtered under religious ritual slaughter practices (Halal or Kosher). An original certificate must accompany the product at time of entry.

### SECTION III. SPECIFIC ATTESTATIONS REQUIRED ON EXPORT CERTIFICATE

<b>Health Certificate</b>	<p><i>This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera, swine vesicular disease, African Swine fever, bovine fever, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America.</i></p> <p>Note: While the Trinidad and Tobago Government has not specified specific declaration required on the Health Certificate for Pet Food, the following sample attestation can be used as a guideline:</p> <p><i>a. The producing plant has been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under APHIS Veterinary Services as a producer of pet food for export and is supervised by an official or accredited veterinarian.</i></p> <p><i>b. The pet food meets the requirements of the United States for local use.</i></p>
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<b>Health Certificate (Cont'd)</b>	<p><i>c. The animals used in the production of the food were presented for examination at slaughter and evaluated under standards existing for pet food in the United States or the State of origin of the product.</i></p> <p><i>d. The raw materials have been manufactured and packaged in compliance with approved manufacturing practices in the country of export, designed to produce a product free from pathogenic microorganisms.</i></p>
<b>Certificate of Wholesomeness</b>	<p>Fresh/Frozen beef and beef products:</p> <p><i>a. The meat and meat products are derived from cattle that were subject to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection according to USDA regulations and were slaughtered after Jan 12, 2004.</i></p> <p><i>b. All cattle are humanely stunned by a method that does not inject air into the cranial cavity.</i></p> <p><i>c. The beef and beef products were not derived from and do not contain any of the following specified risk materials: brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum) and dorsal root ganglia, from animals over 30 months of age at the time of slaughter and the tonsils and intestine from pylorus to anus, of all animals regardless of age.</i></p> <p><i>d. The beef and beef products do not contain any mechanically separated meat or advanced recovery meat.</i></p> <p>Poultry and poultry products:</p> <p><i>The products do not originate from states that are under quarantine restrictions for any OIE list A diseases affecting poultry.</i></p>
<b>Phytosanitary Certificate</b>	<p>Note: While the Trinidad and Tobago Government has not specified specific declaration required on the Phytosanitary Certificate, the following sample attestation can be used as a guideline:</p> <p><i>The products have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from pests and diseases and conform to the current phytosanitary requirements of Trinidad and Tobago.</i></p> <p>*It is important to note that the importation of soft, fleshy fruits and vegetables are prohibited from all areas where dangerous fruit flies (i.e. Mexican and Mediterranean) are known to occur unless approved treatments can be effectively performed. Additionally, the importation of planting material, namely plants and rooted cuttings, should be limited to soil-free plants and plant parts.</p>
<b>Halal/Kosher Certificate</b>	<p>Note: While the Trinidad and Tobago Government has not specified specific declaration required on Halal/Kosher Certificates, the following sample attestation can be used as a guideline:</p> <p>Poultry Products:</p>

*The poultry products covered by this certificate are derived from birds that received (Kosher/Halal) slaughter as based upon documentation provided by religious authorities or by (Kosher/Halal) label declaration.*

Beef Products:

*The beef products covered by this certificate are derived from cattle that received (Kosher/Halal) slaughter as based upon documentation provided by religious authorities or by (Kosher/Halal) label declaration.*

#### **SECTION IV. OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Food and Drug Act of 1960, the Pesticide & Toxic Chemical Act of 1979, the Animal Disease Importation Act of 1954, and the Plant Protection Act of 1975, are the most comprehensive set of laws that govern the importation of food and agricultural products into Trinidad and Tobago. In general, Trinidad and Tobago follows internationally accepted food standards and guidelines (i.e. those developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Organization for Standardization), and may refer to U.S., Canadian, and European standards as well.

It is important to note that import permits are required by Trinidad and Tobago for a large number of fresh and semi-processed food products entering the country. An import permit is only issued to residents of Trinidad and Tobago. If an import permit is issued, it will detail the conditions under which the product will be allowed to enter into Trinidad and Tobago (e.g. certification or any treatment that may be required). Therefore, U.S. exporters should work very closely with their Trinidad and Tobago importers to make sure that they fully comply with the specified conditions of entry. For more information on Trinidad and Tobago's food and agricultural import regulations and standards, please refer to GAIN Report TD5004.

#### **SECTION V. GOVERNMENT REGULATORY AGENCY CONTACTS**

Chemistry/Food & Drugs Division  
Ministry of Health  
92 Frederick Street  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.  
Tel: 1 (868) 624-5968/ 623-5242/ 623-2834  
Fax: 1 (868) 623-2477  
E-mail: [cfdd@carib-link.net](mailto:cfdd@carib-link.net)

Veterinary Service  
Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources  
St. Clair Circle, St. Clair  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.  
Tel: 1 (868) 625-1473  
Fax: 1 (868) 628-1289  
E-mail: [aphmalmr@tstt.net.tt](mailto:aphmalmr@tstt.net.tt)

Plant Quarantine Service

Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources  
Central Experiment Station  
Caroni North Bank Road  
Centeno, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.  
Tel: 1 (868) 646-4335  
Fax: 1 (868) 646-1646

Customs & Excise Division  
Ministry of Finance  
Nicholas Court, Independence Square  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.  
Tel: 1 (809) 625-3311  
Fax: 1 (809) 625-6003

**APPENDIX I. ELECTRONIC COPY OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  <b>HEALTH CERTIFICATE EXPORT CERTIFICATE ANIMAL PRODUCTS</b>	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  PORT  DATE AND NO.
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This certificate is for Veterinary purposes only. It is valid for 30 days after the date of signature. In the case of transport by ship or rail, the time is prolonged by the time of the voyage.

This is to certify that rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera, swine vesicular disease, African Swine fever, bovine fever, ~~bovine spongiform encephalopathy~~, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia do not exist in the United States of America.

#### ADDITIONAL DECLARATION

Fudge Twirl Ice Cream 4.5qt	105	1155.00
Neapolitan Ice Cream 4.5qt	105	1155.00
Vanilla Ice Cream Lite Soft Serve	32	960.00
Chocolate Ice Cream Lite Soft Serve	16	480.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>258 cases</b>	<b>3750.00 lbs</b>



(SIGNATURE OF ENDORSING OFFICIAL)	(TYPED NAME)	(TITLE OF ENDORSING OFFICIAL)
DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT		
NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER	Produced in Iowa	NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE
PRODUCT (quantity, unit of measure, and kind) Ice Cream - Assorted Flavors and Sizes 258 cases 3750.00 lbs		CONVEYANCE
IDENTIFICATION		

No liability shall attach to the United States Department of Agriculture or to any officer or representative of the Department with respect to this certificate.

VS FORM 16-4 (MAY 2003)

(All previous versions are obsolete after Jan. 2004.)

No phytosanitary certificate can be issued until an application is completed (7 CFR 353)

See reverse for additional OMB information.

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 0579-0052

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE		FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
<b>PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE</b> TO: THE PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION(S) OF  <b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>		PLACE OF ISSUE	
		NO	
		DATE INSPECTED	
CERTIFICATION This is to certify that the plants, plant product or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests, specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.			
DISINFESTATION AND/OR DISINFECTION TREATMENT			
1. DATE		2. TREATMENT	
3. CHEMICAL (active ingredient) <b>8-hydroxyquinoline Sulfate</b>		<b>dip</b>	
5. CONCENTRATION <b>1%</b>		4. DURATION AND TEMPERATURE <b>2 minutes, ambient air temperature</b>	
		6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE EXPORTER		8. DECLARED NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE CONSIGNEE	
9. NAME OF PRODUCE AND QUANTITY DECLARED  <b>2000 count Citrus seed</b>		10. BOTANICAL NAME OF PLANTS  <u>Citrus celebica</u> , <u>Citrus limonia</u> , <u>X Citroncirus sp.</u> , <u>Citrus reshni</u> , <u>Citrus paradisi</u> , <u>Poncirus trifoliata</u> , <u>Citrus aurantium</u> , <u>Citrus sinensis</u> , <u>Citrus reticulata</u> , <u>Citrus jambhiri</u>	
11. NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PACKAGES  <b>one padded envelope</b>		12. DISTINGUISHING MARKS	
13. PLACE OF ORIGIN  <b>California</b>		14. DECLARED MEANS OF CONVEYANCE  <b>Air mail</b>	
		15. DECLARED POINT OF ENTRY  <b>Piarco</b>	
WARNING: Any alteration, forgery, or unauthorized use of this phytosanitary certificate is subject to civil penalties of up to \$250,000 (7 U.S.C. Section 7734(b)) or punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).			
ADDITIONAL DECLARATION			

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE FIELD OPERATIONS <b>MEAT AND POULTRY EXPORT CERTIFICATE OF WHOLESOMENESS</b>		A knowingly false entry or false alteration of any entry on this certificate may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years or both (18 USC 1001). Additional penalties exist under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 USC 611 (b) (1), (2), and (5), 21 USC 676) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 USC 458 (c) (1), (2), and (5), 21 USC 461) for an unauthorized or false alteration or misuse of this certificate.		
DISTRICT OFFICE	COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	DATE ISSUED		
	<b>Trinidad #2</b>			
EXPORTED BY 1/ (Applicant's name and address including ZIP Code)		PRODUCT EXPORTED FROM:		
		EST. / PLANT NUMBER (If applicable)		
		CITY		
		<b>Miami</b>		
CONSIGNED TO 1/ (Name and address including ZIP Code)		<input type="checkbox"/> @ SLAUGHTERING PLANT <input type="checkbox"/> @ PROCESSING PLANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> @ WAREHOUSE <input type="checkbox"/> @ DOCKSIDE		
TOTAL MARKED NET WEIGHT	TOTAL CONTAINERS			
<b>6,589.44 lbs.</b>	<b>294 boxes</b>			
PRODUCT AS LABELED	MARKED WEIGHT OF LOT 1/	NUMBER OF PACKAGES IN LOT 1/	SHIPPING MARKS 1/	EST / PLANT NUMBER ON PRODUCT
<b>Cooks Spiral Sliced Ham.</b>	<b>4,608.00 lbs.</b>			
<b>Turkey Franks</b>	<b>648.00 lbs.</b>			
<b>Turkey Burgers 8/3 Lbs</b>	<b>676.00 lbs.</b>			
<b>Purdue Turkey Frank 4/1</b>	<b>757.44 lbs.</b>			
1/ As stated by applicant or contractor				

REMARKS

"The products do not originate from the states that are under quarantine restrictions for any OIE list A diseases affecting poultry."

☒ I CERTIFY that the meat or meat food product specified hereon is from animals that received both antemortem and postmortem inspection and were found sound and healthy and that it has been inspected and passed as provided by law and regulations of the Department and is sound and wholesome.

☒ I CERTIFY that the poultry and poultry products specified above came from birds that were officially given an antemortem and postmortem inspection and passed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and are wholesome and fit for human consumption.

NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY AN INSPECTOR OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION PROGRAM

By order of the Secretary of Agriculture

INSPECTOR AND DISTRICT

This certificate is receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained.  
 This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

FSIS FORM 9060-5 (07/19/2001)

REPLACES FSIS FORM 9060-5 (05/06/1999), WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

Designed on FormFlow Software.